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OUR STUDENTS. OUR SCHOOLS. OUR FUTURE.

October 20, 2013

Acting Chairman Clyburn  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC, 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors,  
CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Clyburn:

On behalf of the School Superintendents of Alabama, and our 135 member school systems, I write to express our strong support for the nomination of AASA Executive Director Daniel A. Domenech to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors. We were pleased to support Dr. Domenech in his initial nomination in 2012, and we look forward to his continued leadership with USAC. We welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

Having previously served as a school principal and local superintendent, I personally understand the importance of USAC and the E-Rate program. When I served in a local system, a large portion of our technology budget was derived from E-Rate. With the convergence of rapidly expanding digital education in a time of weakened local economies, now, more than ever, school systems need a strong E-Rate program. Across our state, local governments and school boards are reordering budgets to purchase digital infrastructure and provide new learning opportunities for all students. E-Rate remains a key part of their funding strategies.

In my current role, I work with superintendents in systems large and small, wealthy and poor. They are all trying to increase access for their students, and they all rely on E-Rate. However, the poorer systems rely almost exclusively on E-Rate. Dr. Domenech understands that for the nation to move forward we must educate all children to high levels.

\* Dr. Domenech's leadership at AASA—and AASA's proven track record as an excellent advocate for the E-Rate program—make us confident that he will be a strong addition to the USAC Board.

With more than 40 years of experience in public education, Dr. Domenech has extensive education and leadership experience, including first-hand experience of the critical role of telecommunications and connectivity in schools. Further, his direct link to public school systems provides a sense of continuity when it comes to representing school system-level thoughts and opinions, as he would fill the spot currently held by the NSBA.

In today's increasingly global and competitive world, a top notch education and the building of lifelong learning skills require access to education technology, and Dr. Domenech is acutely aware of the crucial role the E-Rate program plays in helping schools and libraries afford telecommunications connectivity.

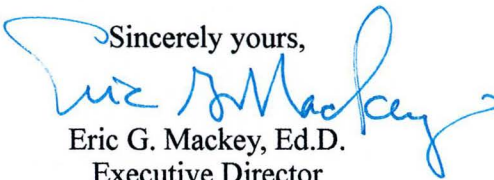
Beyond his years in the classroom, which include extensive teaching and leadership experience, Dr. Domenech has served on the U.S. Department of Education's National Assessment Governing Board, on the advisory board for the Department of Defense schools, and on the Board of Overseers for the Baldrige Award. He is currently chair for Communities in Schools of Virginia, the Learning First Alliance, the Educational Research Service and the Board of Visitors for the College of Education at the University of West Georgia. He serves on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the National Student Clearinghouse, Americas Promise, the Center for Naval Analyses, and the Sea Research Foundation.

We believe that Dr. Domenech's broad understanding of education, education leadership and education technology, coupled with a strong work ethic and deep commitment to expanding educational opportunities to the nation's students will add to the work of USAC as it moves forward. His nomination to the USAC board provides continuity and leadership, allowing him to continue in a role he has held over the past year, representing the voice of school administrator/superintendent.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your approval of Dr. Domenech's nomination to the USAC Board of Directors, representing schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

Thank you for your consideration.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,  
  
Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.  
Executive Director  
School Superintendents of Alabama